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The vegetation of Switzerland

CHRIST'S *Das Pflanzenleben der Schweiz* was published in 1879. A French translation of this work entitled *La flore de la Suisse et ses origines* appeared in 1907.³ An apology is due the author and publishers for the tardiness of this review. The translator is E. TRÈCHE, and the author has added a supplement in which he summarizes the geobotanical work that has been done since the publication of the first edition. As the original work has never been reviewed in the GAZETTE, a summary of its contents may be acceptable.

After a brief discussion of the fundamental principles of plant distribution, especially the influence of climate, and migrations, the vegetational regions of Switzerland are described in great detail. The primary divisions are naturally zonal in form, since the country is so largely mountainous. The author enumerates four zones: (1) the basal zone, having considerable likeness in its flora to the Mediterranean region, and largely under cultivation, with the grape as the characteristic culture plant; (2) the zone of deciduous forest, dominated in the south by the chestnut, in the north by the beech; (3) the zone of coniferous forest, composed of spruce, fir, larch, and Cembra pine; (4) the alpine region, to which a third of the discussion is devoted. Here particularly the author considers the problems of migration, tracing an important element among the alpine plants to the mountains of north-central Asia as their point of origin. The large endemic element of the alpine flora is also discussed at some length.

The work is characterized by minuteness of detail, possible because of the thoroughness with which the Alps have been explored and studied by botanists. Such a work is hardly yet possible in any portion of our country.

The supplement, which is a résumé of the work of recent students, adds nothing of general importance, but merely fills out details here and there. It would seem that in view of the great advance that has been made in the study of plant geography during the thirty years since the appearance of the first edition, a better plan would have been to rewrite the whole.—WILLIAM S. COOPER.

MINOR NOTICES

Local tree floras.—RAMALEY has published a thin volume⁴ whose really useful part consists of descriptions of the trees of Colorado, with analytic keys and a considerable number of illustrations. These will be helpful to those who wish to study the woody plants. This part is prefaced by an essay of some 30 pages on the "wild flowers" of the state, with many halftones of vegetation and scenery, and a number of good outline drawings. The title, *Wild flowers and trees of Colorado*, is thus literally justified, but practically it is misleading. We hoped from the announcement to see a popular flora embracing the commoner

³ CHRIST, H., *La flore de la Suisse et ses origines*. pp. xiv+571+119. pls. 4. maps 5. Bâle-Geneva-Lyons: Georg & Cie. 1907.

⁴ RAMALEY, F., *Wild flowers and trees of Colorado*. 8vo. pp. vi+78. figs. 70. Boulder, Colo.: A. A. Greenman. 1909.